

Washington, DC - Congressman Jeff Fortenberry, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, today issued the following statement on the ongoing conflict in Gaza:

“The United States must continue to work to lead efforts for security in the region for both Israel and innocent Palestinians, including the facilitation of humanitarian aid and diplomatic efforts to prevent further violence.”

“Israel has the right to exist in peace and defend itself from attack. Israel also has a responsibility to protect and help innocent Palestinians and engage the wider moderate Arab world in the hope of ending these disastrous cycles of violence.”

“The shelling of the United Nations facility in Gaza yesterday underscores the need for a durable peace and appropriate engagement of the international community. Moreover, the United Nations and its member states must emphasize that the use of human shields by Hamas constitutes a crime against humanity, and that nihilistic incitements to violence, regardless of the grievances that provoke them, have no place in a civilized world. No legitimate political aims can be achieved by hiding behind women and children and sacrificing the lives of innocent civilians.”

The most recent conflict in Gaza between Israel and Hamas began on December 27, 2008.

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